

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated May 31, 2006. Claims 1-16 are currently pending. Claim 17 has been canceled.

Formalities

Claim 10 stands objected to on page 2 of the Office Action. It is respectfully submitted that the changes to claim 10 herein address and overcome any potential formality issue in this regard.

Claims 9 and 13 stand rejected under Section 112, second paragraph, on page 3 of the Office Action. It is respectfully submitted that the changes to claims 9 and 13 herein address and overcome any potential issue in this regard.

Claim 1 – Section 112 Rejection

Claim 1 stands rejected under Section 112, second paragraph on page 2 of the Office Action. In this regard, it appears as if the Examiner does not fully understand the language “*so that a downstream rubbing direction edge of the light blocking section is located farther from an adjacent edge of the protruding portion than is an upstream rubbing direction edge of the light-blocking section*” set forth in claim 1. This Section 112 rejection is respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

Exhibit 1 attached hereto, provided for purposes of example only, is a marked-up copy of Fig. 9 of the instant application. Exhibit 1 reads the aforesaid features of claim 1 on the example non-limiting Fig. 9 embodiment, in an example non-limiting manner, for purposes of understanding only. As shown in Fig. 9, the light-blocking section (50) includes one or more pieces. In particular, the light-blocking section (50) is asymmetric with respect to the protruding portion (15) so that a downstream rubbing direction edge (DE) of the light-blocking section is

located further from an adjacent edge (E1) of the protruding portion (15) than is an upstream rubbing direction edge (UE) of the light-blocking section which may or may not extend beyond an adjacent different edge (E2) of the protruding portion. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is clear and definite with respect to the language at issue. The Section 112 rejection should be withdrawn.

Art Rejections

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Ozawa in view of Kim. This Section 103(a) rejection is respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1 requires “the light-blocking section includes one or more pieces, and the light-blocking section is asymmetric with respect to the protruding portion so that a downstream rubbing direction edge of the light-blocking section is located further from an adjacent edge of the protruding portion than is an upstream rubbing direction edge of the light-blocking section which may or may not extend beyond an adjacent different edge of the protruding portion.” For example and without limitation, Exhibit 1 attached hereto is a marked-up copy of Fig. 9 of the instant application. As shown in Exhibit 1 attached hereto, the light-blocking section (50) includes one or more pieces and is asymmetric with respect to the protruding portion (15) so that a downstream rubbing direction edge (DE) of the light-blocking section is located further from an adjacent edge (E1) of the protruding portion (15) than is an upstream rubbing direction edge (UE) of the light-blocking section which may or may not extend beyond an adjacent different edge (E2) of the protruding portion. Note that a downstream rubbing direction edge is the edge of a light-blocking section at the pointer end of the arrow indicating the rubbing direction. It is also noted that in the Fig. 9 example embodiment, the light-blocking section (50) includes first

and second different pieces, one being made up of part of the scanning line (25) and the other as part of the storage capacitor electrode section or line.

Ozawa fails to disclose or suggest the aforesaid underlined features of claim 1. In Ozawa, the alleged light-blocking section 9 in Fig. 1B is symmetrical with respect to the alleged protrusion. Moreover, since Fig. 1B of Ozawa shows that the light-shield 9 is formed in the same manner on each side of the alleged protrusion regions, Ozawa cannot possibly disclose or suggest *“that a downstream rubbing direction edge of the light-blocking section is located further from an adjacent edge of the protruding portion than is an upstream rubbing direction edge of the light-blocking section which may or may not extend beyond an adjacent different edge of the protruding portion”* as required by amended claim 1. Ozawa is entirely unrelated to the invention of claim 1 in this respect. Citation to Kim cannot cure the fundamental flaws of Ozawa, as even the alleged combination (which would be incorrect in any event) fails to meet the invention of claim 1.

The Office Action contends that Fig. 3A of Ozawa shows asymmetry between the alleged light shield 9 and the protruding portion 6. However, Fig. 3A-3B of Ozawa clearly does *not* disclose or suggest that a downstream rubbing direction edge of the alleged light-blocking section 9 is located further from an adjacent edge of the alleged protruding portion 6 than is an upstream rubbing direction edge of the light-blocking section 9 which may or may not extend beyond an adjacent different edge of the protruding portion 6” as required by amended claim 1. Thus, the Section 103(a) rejection of claim 1 is incorrect in this regard. It is unclear where an upstream (and downstream) rubbing direction edge would even be located in Fig. 3 of Ozawa. Again, citation to Kim cannot cure the fundamental flaws of Ozawa, as even the alleged combination (which would be incorrect in any event) fails to meet the invention of claim 1.

Claim 9 requires that the light-blocking section shades at least a defective orientation domain formed in an area in the liquid crystal layer. For example and without limitation, Figs. 1-2 of the instant application illustrate that the light-blocking section 50 shades a defective orientation domain (D) formed in an area in the liquid crystal layer. As another example, Fig. 9 of the instant application illustrates that the light-blocking section 50 shades a defective orientation domain (D) formed in an area in the liquid crystal layer. Ozawa fails to disclose or suggest the invention of claim 9.

Claim 12 requires that *“an opening is provided in a color filter layer of the counter electrode substrate, the opening in the color filter layer being provided in the reflective region, and wherein the light-blocking section covers the entire opening in the color filter layer in the reflective region.”* For example and without limitation, Figs. 1, 2, 9 illustrate that an opening 13a is provided in a color filter layer 13 of the counter electrode substrate, the opening 13a in the color filter layer being provided in the reflective region, and wherein the light-blocking section 50/29 covers the entire opening 13a in the color filter layer in the reflective region. The cited art fails to disclose or suggest this feature. There is no disclosure, suggestion or motivation in the cited art for the alleged 5-way Section 103(a) rejection of this claim. Hindsight is not permissible.

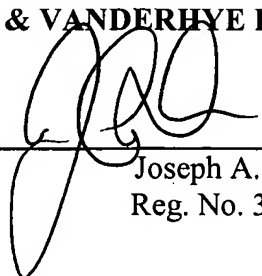
It is respectfully requested that all rejections be withdrawn. All claims are in condition for allowance. If any minor matter remains to be resolved, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned with regard to the same.

TANAKA et al
Appl. No. 10/806,255
August 31, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: _____

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JR' or similar, written over a horizontal line.

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